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Sen. Kuipers praises Undersecretary Hickok for work on No Child Left Behind Act

Lansing — Sen. Wayne Kuipers, R-Holland, commended U.S. Education Undersecretary Eugene Hickok for his testimony on the federal No Child Left Behind Act before a joint hearing of the House and Senate education committees today.

“Dr. Hickok’s testimony showed how federal policy makers can assist local and state leaders with improving education for our nation’s young people,” said Kuipers, who chaired the joint hearing.

Hickok answered questions from lawmakers about how the law affected the state and individual school districts. He told them how the act encourages accountability in schools. He also said the U.S. Department of Education today announced how it intends to better deal with pupils who have limited English-language skills.

“While I’ve heard many positive comments about No Child Left Behind from local school officials, I’ve heard some concerns as well,” Kuipers said. “After hearing Secretary Hickok, I’m confident national leaders will improve how the increased accountability standards can better deal with special-education pupils and pupils with limited English proficiency.”

Hickok told state lawmakers the No Child Left Behind Act wasn’t a one-size-fits-all program, but a way to ensure all states evaluate students to find out which schools and districts need to improve.

“Michigan’s approach to accountability is distinctly Michigan’s,” Hickok said.

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Editor’s note: Photos of Secretary Hickok testifying are available for download on the Senate Majority Photowire at: <http://www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/photowire/Index.htm>